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FOCUS ON CHINA AS QUAD GATHERS FOR MALABAR DRILL

The 4-day drill (Aug 26-29) off the Guam coast comes amid China's aggressive powerplay in the Indo-Pacific region

INDIAN FRIGATE, CORVETTE IN WESTERN PACIFIC

Indian frigate INS Shivalik and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt reached Guam in the Western Pacific to take part in the exercise with the US, Japan and Australia. Beijing sees the drill as an effort to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region. It also comes at a time when China is building ties with the Taliban to increase its strategic depth

DEMO OF INTEGRATED DETERRENCE

- It is likely to be a demonstration of the 'integrated deterrence' approach laid down by Defense Secy Lloyd Austin during the change of command for the US Indo-Pacific Command in April
- Integrated deterrence aims at expanding capabilities and using them in networked ways with allies against all common enemies

1992

THE JOINT INDO-U.S. MALABAR WAR GAMES BEGAN IN 1992

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Af lawmakers among 400 more evacuated to India

Another flight with 146 Indians is expected to arrive from Doha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Indians and Afghan nationals evacuated from Kabul upon arrival at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on Sunday | PTI

CLOSE to 400 evacuated people from Kabul, including two Afghan lawmakers, landed in India on Sunday in three different flights, as the security situation in Afghanistan's capital deteriorated further.

That apart, 146 Indians, who were evacuated to Doha, are expected to reach India by Sunday night, the Indian embassy in Qatar said. Most of them had worked for foreign companies in Afghanistan.

Of the 392 who landed in India earlier in the day, one flight had 168 evacuees, including 107 Indians and 23 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus. The C-17 heavy-lift transport aircraft of the IAF that brought them back, landed at Hindon airbase near Delhi.

Another group of 87 Indians and two Nepalese nationals arrived on a special Air India flight from Dushanbe, a day after they were evacuated to the Tajikistan capital.

The third aircraft had 135 Indians, who were earlier evacuated from Kabul to Doha in the last few days by the US and NATO aircraft. They were taken to Delhi on a special flight.

Prominent in the group of 168 were Afghanistan lawmakers Anarkali Honaryar and Narender Singh Khalsa and their family members.

"I am feeling like crying. Everything is finished. It is a very difficult and painful decision to leave the country. We have not seen such a situation. Everything has been snatched away. It's all over," a despondent Khalsa told the media upon his arrival.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said around 500 more are stranded in Afghanistan as per preliminary estimations. "The evacuation process is happening in a flawless manner. As per our estimation there will be around 500 people to return to India. The union government has taken steps to bring back all those Indians who want to come back. There are some issues related to the travel to the airport there. The government will take necessary steps to bring those stranded there safely to the airport," Muraleedharan said.

A small group of Indian officials is learnt to be coordinating the evacuation at the Kabul airport, and another batch of Indians is expected to be brought back on Monday.

The number of people evacuated by India from Kabul so far reached around 590 since last Monday. P7,9

₹40,000-CRORE STORY

INSURERS ROLLING IN MONEY RAISED FOR CROP COVER

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

WHEN the gross premium collected by insurance firms is more than the total value of the claims settled, you know insurance is a profitable business. But when insurance companies appear to be rolling in money generated from farmers' meagre premiums for covering their crops even after settling their loss claims, you wonder what's happening.

Take the Centre's ambitious PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The gross premiums received by insurance companies under the scheme over the last five years is ₹1.26 lakh crore, but farmers got just ₹87,320 crore as claims (see table). The difference is a cool ₹40,000 crore. Surely a farm welfare scheme ought not to benefit the insurance firm, certainly not by such a big margin?

The huge profit the insurance firms are enjoying actually comes from the government, as under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% of the sum insured is paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. The rest is borne by the state and the Centre.

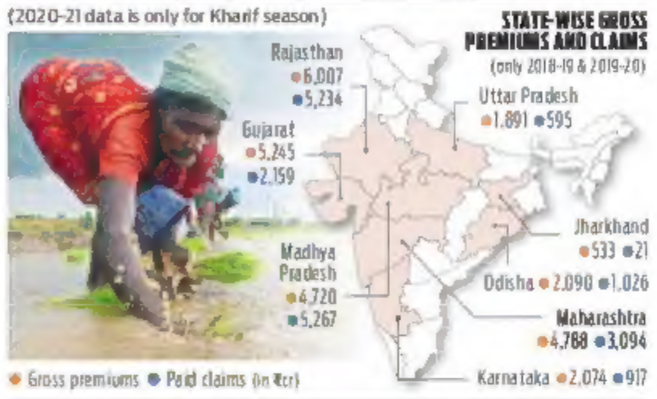
Agriculture policy expert Devinder Sharma said there are many flaws in the crop insurance scheme, and needs overhauling. "It looks like that it is for the benefit of insurance companies. There is a complete need to overhaul and redesign it. Many states opting out of the scheme is a clear indication of it," he said. P8

STATUS REPORT OF PMFBY SCHEME

YEAR	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
Farmers Insured (in lakh)	583.7	533	576.2	608.8	398.1	2,699.8
Area Insured (in lakh hect)	567.3	508.3	523	494.8	261.2	2,354.6
Gross Premium (in crore)	21,770	24,649	29,348	31,709	19,047	1,26,523
Paid Claims (in crore)	16,758	22,113	27,491	20,943	15	87,320

(2020-21 data is only for Kharif season)

STATE-WISE GROSS PREMIUMS AND CLAIMS
(only 2018-19 & 2019-20)



75% of parents against sending kids to school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CLASSES 9 to 12 are set to reopen in the offline mode from Monday even as students and parents are divided over whether to opt for it, as fears of catching the Covid infection linger.

A survey by the Management of Independent CBSE Schools in Karnataka revealed that up to 75 per cent of parents of students in Classes 9 to 12 are unwilling to send their children to school. The rest reason that offline classes can better ensure learning than online, besides improving social interaction of students.

FULL REPORT: P2

WITH THIS ISSUE THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex

32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

FM calls Infy chief over I-T portal glitch

BENGALURU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has summoned Infosys CEO Salil Parekh on Monday, seeking an explanation over glitches in the new I-T portal | P10

Dayananda Sagar University Bengaluru

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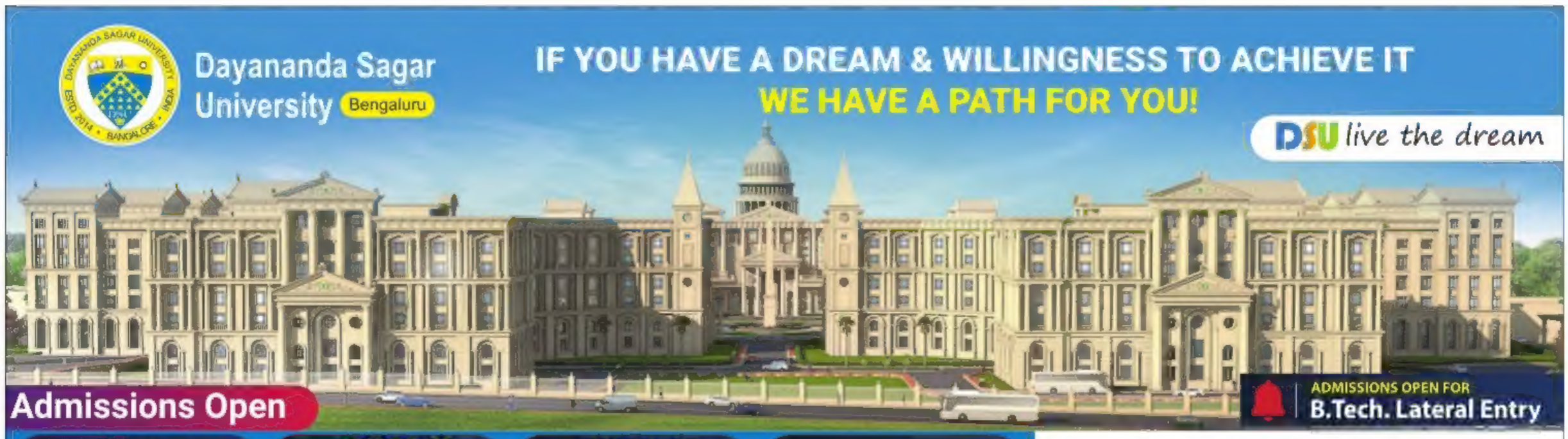

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